

Ensign DeBerniere

British Officer, spy report to General Gage

“The 20<sup>th</sup> of March Captain Brown and myself received orders [from Gen. Gage] to set out for Concord, and examine the road and situation of the town; and also to get what information we could relative to what quantity of artillery and provisions...The town of Concord lies between hills that command it entirely; there is a river runs through it, with two bridges over it, in summer it is pretty dry; the town is large and covers a great tract of ground, but the houses are not close together but generally in little groups. We were informed they had fourteen pieces of cannon (ten iron, four brass) and two cohorns...their iron cannon they kept in a house in town, their brass they had concealed in some place behind the town, in a wood. They had also a store of flour, fish, salt and rice; and a magazine of powder and cartridges. They fired their morning gun, and mounted a guard of ten men at night. We dined at the house of Mr. Bliss, a friend to government; they had sent him word they would not let him go out of the town alive that morning; however, we told him if he would come with us we would take care of him, as we were three and all well armed, and he consented and told us he could shew us another road, called Lexington road...The road continued very open and good for six miles, the next five a little inclosed, (there is one very bad place in these five miles) the road good to Lexington. You then come to Menotomy, the road still good...You then leave Cambridge on your right...and so to Charlestown; the road is very good almost all the way.

In the town of Concord, a woman directed us to Mr. Bliss's house; a little after she came in crying, and told us they swore if she did not leave the town, they would tar and feather her for directing Tories in their road.